

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

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## Medusa Finally Draws Inside For Matchmaker Leg

It's no secret that post position is critical to winning a race at Yonkers, but when your horse draws an outside post two or more times in a row, the post position handicap can seem even more insurmountable.

That's how Randy Bendis felt when his pacing mare Medusa drew post 5 in the opening leg of the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series and then post 8 in the second leg.

### Matchmaker Winning Posts

**Post 1**—Bedroomconfessions, MacKenzie A,  
Shesjustadelight N

**Post 2**—Mach It A Par

**Post 3**—Regil Elektra

**Post 5**—Empress Deo

Lady Luck smiled on the mare at the draw for this Friday's third leg as she will start from post 1 in the third division (Race 7).

"I attempted to race a horse in the

Levy and Matchmaker a few years ago but they were outside shots at best; this mare is serious," said Bendis. "There are a lot of good mares, but she's good too."

In January 2016, Bendis and Tom Pollack bought Medusa for \$65,000 at the Tattersalls January Mixed Sale. The 5-year-old daughter of Bettor's Delight had been racing for the Burke Stable and despite not starting as a 2 year old had a solid resume, including a mark of 1:51.2.

After buying Medusa, Bendis didn't hesitate to ship her from track to track for good racing spots. She competed at Bendis' home base of The Meadows and at Pocono, the Meadowlands and Yonkers. By the end of 2016, Medusa had made 30 starts for her new owners and banked \$202,444.

"One thing that is good about the series is there are five legs, because if you're drawing bad, you're going to need opportunities," continued Bendis. "This mare's been racing great. When we decided to start racing her off the pace, that she didn't need to be on the front end to race, she started racing even better. In her race last week at Yonkers (finishing fourth in the Matchmaker) she came a :53.4 back half."

Since Bendis is based at The Meadows and has 35 in training at the track and his farm, Medusa is one of the 10-15 horses he has with trainers in other areas. Andrew "Andy" Federico Jr. is keeping an eye on Medusa.

"Everything's good with her right now, especially since the weather has improved and Andy has been able to get her out in the field some," shared Bendis.

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## WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

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Medusa is being driven by Matt Kakaley at Yonkers and their toughest competition on Friday night is likely to be Shesjustadelight N. The mare won an opening round leg of the Matchmaker and finished second, beaten just a head, in round two last week. She started from post 1 in both of those races and has another coveted inside starting spot for this Friday, post 2.

The mare who thus far has earned the dubious distinction of being the worst-drawing in the Matchmaker is the Ron Burke-trained Tessa Seelster. She had won three of five starts at Yonkers prior to the Matchmaker, but has drawn posts 8, 7 and 8 in the three legs. —By Kathy Parker

### Blue Chip Matchmaker Series Point Standings

Name	1st Leg	2nd Leg	25 pts/start	Total
1. Bedroomconfessions	25	50	50	125
Empress Deo	25	50	50	125
Shesjustadelight N	50	25	50	125
4. Regil Elektra	50	12	50	112
5. Mackenzie A	8	50	50	108
6. Mach It A Par	50	5	50	105
7. Krispy Apple	5	25	50	80
8. Hidden Land	25	0	50	75
9. Betabcool N	12	12	50	74
10. Lispaty	12	8	50	70
11. Change The Rulz N	12	5	50	67
Divas Image	5	12	50	67
13. Medusa	8	8	50	66
14. Quick Draft A	8	0	50	58
Sell A Bit N	0	8	50	58
16. Tessa Seelster	5	0	50	55
17. Al Raza N	0	0	50	50
American Girl	0	0	50	50
Delightful Dragon	0	0	50	50
For The Ladies N	0	0	50	50
Wrangler Magic	—	25	25	50
22. Sandbetweenurtoes	—	5	25	30
23. Devil Child	0	—	25	25
Givemeyourheart	0	—	25	25
Nike Franco N	0	—	25	25
Sail To The Beach	0	—	25	25

### Levy Memorial Series Point Standings

Name	1st Leg	2nd Leg	25 pts/start	Total
1. Missile J	50	50	50	150
2. Rockin Ron	25	50	50	125
3. Soto	50	12	50	112
4. Keystone Velocity	5	50	50	105
Melmerby Beach	5	50	50	105
6. Bit Of A Legend N	25	25	50	100
Long Live Rock	50	0	50	100
ProvacativeprinceN	50	0	50	100
9. All Bets Off	25	12	50	87
Somewhere In LA	12	25	50	87
11. Bettor's Edge	8	25	50	83
Wakizashi Hanover	8	25	50	83
13. Blood Brother	25	0	50	75
14. Mach It So	12	8	50	70
15. Guantanamo Bay	12	5	50	67
16. Santa Fe Beachboy	8	8	50	66
17. Burning N	8	5	50	63
Texas Terror N	5	8	50	63
19. Dr J Hanover	0	12	50	62
Mattamerican	12	0	50	62
P H Supercam	0	12	50	62
22. Artistic Major	0	8	50	58
23. Great Vintage	0	5	50	55
24. Americanprimetime	0	0	50	50
Caviart Luca	0	0	50	50
Mcardles Lightning	0	0	50	50
Mcwicked	0	0	50	50
28. Always At My Place	5	—	25	30
Take It Back Terry	—	5	25	30
30. Anwar Hanover	0	—	25	25
Our Sky Major N	0	—	25	25
Te Kawau N	0	—	25	25
Vegas Vacation	—	0	25	25



## THIS WEEKEND'S FEATURED RACES

### Friday, March 31

All times listed are local.

8:30p	YR5	<b>Matchmaker F&amp;M Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:50p	YR6	<b>Matchmaker F&amp;M Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:55p	M6	<b>Cond. Trot</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:10p	YR7	<b>Matchmaker F&amp;M Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

[Click here to download all Friday PPs](#)

### Saturday, April 1

8:30p	YR5	<b>Levy Memorial Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
8:50p	YR6	<b>Levy Memorial Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:10p	YR7	<b>Levy Memorial Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>
9:50p	YR9	<b>Levy Memorial Pace</b>	<a href="#">Trackmaster PPs</a>

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### Post Position Wins at Yonkers Raceway

PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
starts	652	652	652	652	652	650	625	490	41	36	4
win	113	112	112	102	106	57	36	10	1	2	1
place	142	103	95	114	93	64	30	9	1	3	0
show	88	127	104	83	90	71	58	22	6	2	0
<b>Percent in Money</b>											
win	17.3	17.2	17.2	15.6	16.3	8.8	5.8	2.0	2.4	5.6	25.0
place	39.1	33.0	31.7	33.1	30.5	18.6	10.6	3.9	4.9	13.9	25.0
show	52.6	52.5	47.7	45.9	44.3	29.5	19.8	8.4	19.5	19.4	25.0

USTA statistics through 3/28/17

### HarnessRacing Weekend Preview

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To sign up for the Weekend Preview please visit [www.harnessracing.com/members\\_sign\\_up.php](http://www.harnessracing.com/members_sign_up.php)

## Hoosier Park Opens Saturday; Jamie Macomber On Her Own

Hoosier Park will kick off its 2017 racing season on Saturday night. With qualifiers held in the weeks leading up to opening night, race secretary Scott Peine found a very full entry box for the opening card.

"We had 190 entries in the box so we have 14 races for Saturday," said Peine.

Hoosier Park opens while nearby Miami Valley is still racing and filling cards. Miami Valley also has 14 races carded for both Friday and Saturday, all with full fields. Both Hoosier Park and Miami Valley have several 10-horse fields.

"The real test will come when we go five days a week," said Peine of the horse population. "But we've got some folks here from Illinois and we had more qualifiers (15 on Wednesday night, March 29)."

There are a couple of noticeable changes in the Hoosier Park driving and training colony. Horseman Peter Wrenn will be back driving at Hoosier Park this year. In addition, trainer Jamie Rucker Macomber, the longtime manager of the Burke Stable at Hoosier Park and wife of driver Ricky Macomber Jr., is now operating her own stable.

"There was an opportunity and it seemed like the right time to do it," she said of the move. "Wilbur Eash approached me and he brought us the ZTam horses, and the Eleven Star Stable approached me last fall. We have 23 horses in the stable right now."

Hoosier Park will have a new daily post time for the 2017 racing season, with first post moving from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Peine said the change was to try to avoid overlap of Hoosier's early races with Thoroughbred signals. He said track management plans to run races off quickly so the last race isn't too much later than the time of the last race with the earlier post time.

When horses step on the track for the first race Saturday night, there will be a new perimeter fence around the track and new video display boards on the toteboard.

The Hoosier barn area officially opened on March 11 and horsemen found renovations underway on the backstretch. New restrooms and locker rooms have been added to the paddock area. Vinyl wall applications were installed in the front of the paddock along with fresh paint on the entire barn and updated bath stalls.

Also, construction is underway on a state-of-the-art racing administration building that will house the racing office, Indiana Horse racing commission judge's office and the Indiana Standardbred Association's medical offices. It is expected to be completed in August.

Hoosier Park's first major open stake of the season, the \$300,000 (est.) Dan Patch, is set for Friday night, Aug. 11. In September, Hoosier Park will welcome the Nadia Lobell and Moni Maker events for 3-year-old fillies, and in October it plays hosts to the Breeders Crown. The Breeders Crown undercard on Oct. 27 and 28 will include \$50,000 finals for the new Pegasus event. — *By Kathy Parker*



# REMINDER!

## SUSTAINING PAYMENTS ARE DUE APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>

### PEPSI NORTH AMERICA CUP

Saturday, June 17, 2017

### ARMBRO FLIGHT

Saturday, June 17, 2017

### BATTLE OF THE BELLES

Monday, August 7, 2017

### BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Monday, August 7, 2017

### CANADIAN PACING DERBY

Saturday, September 2, 2017

### CANADIAN TROTting CLASSIC

Saturday, September 16, 2017

### CASUAL BREEZE

Friday, August 25, 2017

### CONFEDERATION CUP

Sunday, May 21, 2017

### ELEGANTIMAGE

Saturday, September 16, 2017

### ETERNAL CAMNATION

Saturday, August 26, 2017

### FAN HANOVER

Saturday, June 17, 2017

### GOODTIMES

Saturday, June 17, 2017

### MAPLE LEAF TROT

Saturday, September 16, 2017

### METRO PACE

Saturday, September 23, 2017

### MILTON

Saturday, September 16, 2017

### NASSAGAWEYA

Saturday, August 26, 2017

### PEACEFUL WAY

Monday, September 18, 2017

### ROSES ARE RED

Saturday, June 17, 2017

### S.B.O.A.

Saturday, May 20, 2017

### SHES A GREAT LADY PACE

Saturday, September 23, 2017

### SOME BEACHSOMEWHERE

Saturday, June 3, 2017

### WILLIAM WELLWOOD MEMORIAL

Monday, September 18, 2017

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# PAYMENTS DUE APRIL 15

*One list and one check keeps your horses eligible to these top events.*

## **TWO-YEAR-OLDS**

### **BREEDERS CROWN No. 31**

Filly events to race Friday, October 27 at Hoosier Park  
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 20  
Colt & Gelding events to race Saturday, October 28 at Hoosier Park  
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 21  
Purses for the 2-Year-Old Finals in 2017  
US \$600,000  
Sustaining Fee -\$500-  
Final Sustaining Payment - \$600 -- due May 15  
**Entrance Fee: \$5,000**

### **THE ELEVATION**

\$150,000 Est in 2017  
-\$500-  
Open. To be raced Friday, September 22 at Hoosier Park  
Final Sustaining Payment- \$500 - Due May 15  
**Entrance Fee: \$750**

## **KENTUCKIANA STALLION MANAGEMENT PACE & TROT 2017**

2-Year-Old Filly Pace – Open To The World.  
\$250,000 Est. in 2017  
To race Friday, September 22 at Hoosier Park  
-\$500-  
Final Sustaining Payment -\$1,000 -- due May 15  
**Entrance Fee: \$1,500**

### **MADISON COUNTY (for 2-year-olds)**

\$75,000 Est. in 2017  
-\$300-  
Filly events to be raced Thursday, October 12 at Hoosier Park  
Colt & Gelding events to be raced Saturday, October 14 at Hoosier Park  
**Entrance Fee: \$300**

### **MATRON SERIES 2017 (FOR 2-YEAR-OLDS)**

\$637,000 Total Purses in 2016  
-\$400-  
To be raced Thursday, November 9 at Dover Downs  
Top 8 format.  
Final Sustaining Fee - \$500 -- due May 15  
**Entrance Fee: \$1,000**

## **THREE-YEAR-OLDS**

### **BREEDERS CROWN® NO. 30**

Each of the four 3-year-old finals will be guaranteed US\$500,000 in 2017  
-US \$900 (all payments in US Funds)-  
Colts & Geldings to race Saturday, October 28, at Hoosier Park  
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 21  
Fillies to race Friday, October 27, at Hoosier Park  
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Friday, October 20  
(A March 15th 3-year-old payment was necessary)  
For more information about supplements and regular entries, please contact the office  
**Entrance Fee: \$7,500**

### **2017 THE JENNA'S BEACH BOY**

Early Closer For 3-year-old Colt and Gelding Pacers  
-\$100,000 Est. in 2017-  
-\$1,000-  
To race Friday, September 22 at Hoosier Park  
**Entrance Fee: \$2,000**

## **MATRON SERIES 2017 (FOR 3-YEAR-OLDS)**

\$636,250 Total 3-Year-Old Purses in 2016  
-\$750-  
To be raced at Dover Downs Thursday, November 16  
Top 8 format  
**Entrance Fee: \$1,500**

### **2017 CARL ERSKINE**

\$225,000 Est. in 2017  
-\$1,000-  
Open. To race Saturday, November 4 at Hoosier Park  
**Entrance Fee: \$2,000**

### **MONUMENT CIRCLE**

\$200,000 Est. in 2017  
-\$1,000-  
Colts & Geldings only. To race Saturday, November 4 at Hoosier Park  
**Entrance Fee: \$2,000**

## **FOUR-YEAR-OLDS & UP**

### **2017 BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE**

\$200,000 Guaranteed in 2017  
-Supplemental Nomination, April 15: \$6,000-  
To race Saturday, June 3 at Northfield Park

### **2017 BREEDERS CROWN No. 29**

For 3-Year-Old & Older Trotters - \$500,000  
To race Saturday, October 28, at Hoosier Park  
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 21  
-\$1,500-  
**Entrance Fee: \$10,000**  
For 3-Year-Old & Older Pacers - \$400,000  
To race Saturday, October 28, at Hoosier Park  
Elimination heats, if necessary, will be raced Saturday, October 21  
-\$1,500-  
**Entrance Fee: \$8,000**

### **DAYTON TROTting AND PACING DERBY**

\$150,000 Est. each in 2017  
-\$1,000-  
To race Friday, September 29 at Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway  
**Entrance Fee: \$2,000**

### **2017 MIAMI VALLEY DISTAFF PACE & TROT**

\$100,000 Est. each in 2017  
-\$900-  
Mare trotters to race Sunday, May 7 at Miami Valley Gaming  
Mare pacers to race Monday, May 8 at Miami Valley Gaming  
**Entrance Fee: \$2,000**

### **THE SPIRIT OF MASSACHUSETTS TROT (NEW)**

\$250,000 Guaranteed  
-\$1,000-  
To be raced Friday, July 28 at Plainridge Park Casino  
Final Sustaining Payment - \$1,500 -- due May 15  
**Entrance Fee: \$2,500**

*Payment forms for all events available from The Hambletonian Society and in PDF format at [www.hambletonian.org](http://www.hambletonian.org).*

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**ONES TO WATCH**

With the weather improving and spring approaching, more of last year's 3 year olds are returning to the track, both in overnights and qualifiers.

The Meadowlands has qualifiers scheduled for Friday morning beginning at 10 a.m. and among the starters are the Ron Burke-trained **DAYSON** and **CRAZY WOW** (Race 5), with Jeff Gregory's strong duo of **SPICEDBOURBONGIRL** and **BARN DOLL** also in the race. Burke also is scheduled to send out the 2015 million-dollar winner **CHECK SIX** in Race 9. Also entered in Race 9 is **BOSTON RED ROCKS**, winner of last fall's Matron at Dover.

On Saturday night's pari-mutuel card at the Meadowlands, **DOO WOP HANOVER** is in to go in Race 7. It will be the first start for Doo Wop Hanover since the 2015 Breeders Crown at Woodbine. Last year Doo Wop Hanover didn't make a single start after suffering a serious injury in a stall accident. Peter Blood, who co-owns and developed the now 6-year-old son of Rocknroll Hanover, said the horse broke a coffin bone in his left hind leg after kicking a stall wall.

Also scheduled to make his 2017 debut on Saturday night at the Meadowlands is **BETTING EXCHANGE**. A career winner of over \$500,000, the now 5-year-old Betting Exchange starts from post 8 in Race competing in Race 9.

Harrah's Philadelphia opens on Sunday afternoon and on Sunday night Pocono has several divisions of the Bobby Weiss Series for 3- and 4-year-old pacers on the card.

**Last Chance BetAmerica Qualifier At Meadowlands**

The Meadowlands is running a low roller BetAmerica World Harness Handicapping Championship Qualifier Saturday, April 1. The Qualifier is a great way for those new to handicapping contests or harness racing to get involved, have fun and win some cash.

The Meadowlands qualifier requires just a \$50 buy-in, with \$30 going towards each player's bankroll and \$20 going towards the event's prize pool. Players can purchase multiple entries. Contestants must bet a minimum of five races from the Meadowlands with a \$6 win minimum per wager.

The winner receives a seat in the BetAmerica WHHC Final on Saturday, April 29.

For complete tournament information and details, visit [http://www.meadowlandsracetrack.com/event\\_detail.aspx?id=12592](http://www.meadowlandsracetrack.com/event_detail.aspx?id=12592)



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**Inquiries to:** California Sires Stakes 916-919-7469 [csssc@chhaonline.com](mailto:csssc@chhaonline.com)

**Nomination forms can also be obtained at:** [chhaonline.com](http://chhaonline.com)

**PACING STALLIONS ONLY**

## Amateur Driver Glasser Fell For Racing Early In Life

David Glasser was never the type of child that wanted to spend summers at camp. He much preferred the racetrack. Several decades later, he still enjoys a day or night at the races—and often from one of the best seats in the house.

Glasser, who has been driving harness racing horses since the age of 14, on Thursday will take a seat in the sulky behind his trotter Celebrity Stimulus as the C.K.G. Billings Amateur Driving Series kicks off its 36th season at Yonkers Raceway. Last November, Glasser and “Stim” won the Billings Eastern Regional final and a week later finished second to Hannah Miller in the Gold Cup championship.

“I hadn’t even expected to be in the Gold Cup at all,” said the 50-year-old Glasser, who works as a financial advisor.

Glasser was drawn to harness racing by his parents, Arthur and Evelyn, who began buying racehorses in 1971 and five years later had a horse farm with a half-mile training track in upstate New York, not far from Goshen. Glasser, who grew up in North Jersey, enjoyed nothing more than spending time at the farm and following the family’s horses to races in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

In 1984, he won 12 of 58 starts, primarily with his family’s horses at Monticello Raceway. There is a YouTube video of Glasser winning a race with pacer Happy Honnika at Monticello that year. Happy Honnika was named by Glasser’s mom, who spelled Chanukah phonetically to avoid any confusion about the pronunciation. Happy Honnika was stabled in a stall next to White Christmas.

Glasser drove less frequently over the ensuing 30 years, but never lost his passion for the sport. In 2014, he returned to the sulky more often, usually in amateur races. Last year, he won eight of 37 starts. He has 32 victories lifetime.

**“I dreamed my whole life of winning a race at the Meadowlands.”**

—David Glasser

“When the love of this game gets deep into your veins, even if it goes dormant for a while, it never leaves,” Glasser said. “I’d taken a long time off, but then I met (amateur driver) Dave Yarock and he helped me get back into it. I’ve been lucky enough to be able to afford some horses, like ‘Stim,’ and we just had such a great year last year.”

Glasser bought Celebrity Stimulus in 2015 and the trotter has provided Glasser with his two top moments so far in his driving career. The first came last May when Glasser got his first-ever win at the Meadowlands. The victory came on Mother’s Day, with his mom in attendance. Incidentally, Glasser won his next two drives at the Big M later that month, both with trotter Feisty Love, to finish May a perfect 3-for-3 at the mile-sized oval.

“I dreamed my whole life of winning a race at the Meadowlands,” Glasser said. “Then I won two more in a row. I was on fire. That was a hell of a month.

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Lifetime Horse Statistics	NO	YES
Claims & Trainer Change Details	NO	YES
Auction Sales Data	NO	YES
Yearling Prices & Stud Fees	NO	YES
Race Replay Links	NO	YES
Result Chart Links	NO	YES



Six months after his memorable Mother’s Day, Glasser and Celebrity Stimulus won the Billings East Regional final at The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono.

“That was the biggest win of my driving career,” Glasser said. “We were able to go down the road and hang on by the smallest of noses. The winner’s circle photo has me smiling in it with arguably the biggest smile that’s ever been captured on film for me.”

Now Glasser will look to build on last year’s success. And Celebrity Stimulus, who won seven of 38 starts last year and earned \$44,990 in purses, will play a big part.

“He may not be a (1):52 trotter, but that horse leaves everything on the track every week,” Glasser said of the 7-year-old gelding, who has won 19 of 134 career races and \$178,528. “He tries. I’ve gotten to learn how to drive him. I’ve learned that with my size (6-foot-4, 230 pounds) and his size, not to move too much in the stretch. He’ll go his fastest if I just sit still and let him do his thing.”

Celebrity Stimulus is trained at different times of the year by either John Butenschoen or Homer Hochstetler.

“There’s some pressure coming into this season,” Glasser said. “It’s a long year and I try to be patient. We take care of him very well. He’s got such a good heart. When I get him out there and we have a good chance to win, he takes care of me. So I do everything I can to take care of him. He’s like family.” — By Ken Weingartner/Harness Racing Communications



## Owner Poillucci High On His New NZ Import Christen Me

Richard Poillucci has admired pacer Christen Me from afar. With this week's arrival of New Zealand's 2015 Horse of the Year on U.S. soil, Poillucci looks forward to appreciating Christen Me's talents from much nearer proximity.

An 11-time Group 1 winner Down Under with nearly \$2.5 million in purse earnings, Christen Me was recently purchased by Poillucci from the stable of New Zealand trainer Cran Dalgety. Christen Me, a 9-year-old gelding by stallion Christian Cullen out of the award-winning broodmare Splendid Dreams, will be trained in the States by the husband-and-wife team of Jim King Jr. and Jo Ann Looney-King in Delaware. Tim Tetrick will drive Christen Me.

Christen Me won 32 of 68 races in Australasia including the Miracle Mile, Auckland Cup, Victoria Cup, Hunter Cup, and Easter Cup. He hit the board a total of 53 times. He

**"We probably won't realize quite how good he was until he's gone!"**

*—Cran Dalgety*

was trained by Dalgety and driven by Dexter Dunn for owners Charles Roberts and Vicki Purdon.

"We're very excited about him," Poillucci said. "I've been

trying to buy him for a long time. He's quite the horse. There aren't too many horses with his credentials to arrive in America. Dexter Dunn told Tim Tetrick that he's the best horse he's ever driven. If this guy is what we think he is, we could have a lot of fun."

Although he is 9 years old, Christen Me's 68 starts are relatively few for a horse of that age.

"He's like a spring chicken," Dalgety said on his website. "He is working great and looking fantastic. We probably won't realize quite how good he was until he's gone. Not many earn \$2-million plus in Australasia."

The sale of Christen Me came to fruition after it was confirmed the gelding was suffering from minor exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhaging. Lasix, which is permitted to treat the condition in North America, is not allowed Down Under.

Poillucci said the Kings will take their time preparing Christen Me for this year's racing in North America.

"I did stake him to a few stakes that are later on so his acclimation could be a nice slow process," Poillucci said. "It takes time. The first year is a very tough year for these horses. You've got to hope that everything goes well. Their clock is completely different. They're going into fall; we're coming into spring. They don't know whether to grow hair, not grow hair. You've got to do the right thing by the horses.

"He's in tip-top shape. He's a great looking animal, an absolutely gorgeous horse. Cran does an amazing job with his horses. We're not going to go overboard with him this year. We'll race him in some major races and see how he fares."

Christen Me is Poillucci's latest purchase from Down Under, joining New Zealand-bred mare Nike Franco. Poillucci bought Nike Franco last year and she went four-for-four on the Delaware circuit, with a 1:51 victory over the boys in the Dover Downs Open Preferred Handicap to close out the season. The 7-year-old daughter of McArdle was expected to be one of the favorites in this year's Blue Chip Matchmaker Series but was sidelined because of a virus after her first start in the event.

"She has so many good races ahead of her that it doesn't make sense to try to rush her back," Poillucci said. "I think she could be arguably one of the top three mares in North America. That's from Timmy, Jimmy. She was the best pacing mare in all of Australasia last year."

Poillucci has downsized his stable to feature Christen Me, Nike Franco, and 5-year-old trotter Maestro Blue Chip, who won 13 of 20 races last year and earned \$238,000. Maestro Blue Chip is being pointed to the Arthur J. Cutler Memorial on May 6 at the Meadowlands.

"The plan was to keep the cream of the crop," Poillucci said. "I wanted a good trotter, a good mare, and a good open pacer. I have Maestro, Nike, Christen. I have a couple of babies that are coming."

What Poillucci does know is that he's looking forward to this year. Poillucci lives in Massachusetts, where he runs several businesses, including a luxury auto body center and real estate development company. He first became interested in harness racing while playing hockey in Canada.

"If you don't get excited about stuff like this in this business," Poillucci said, "then you don't belong in it." — *By Ken Weingartner/Harness Racing Communications*



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## Walnridge Farm Founder Dr. David Meirs II Dies

Dr. David A. Meirs II, who founded Walnridge Farm as a Standardbred breeding operation in New Jersey, died Monday, March 27, at age 87.

Dr. Meirs' ancestors came to the United States with William Penn and eventually purchased land in New Jersey. As their last name was Waln, the property became known as Walnridge. Dr. Meirs began spending time on the family farm as a young boy and was groomed to be the heir to continue the Waln legacy.

"He once told me that he had four dependents, his three kids and Walnridge," said Dr. Meirs' son, Dr. Richard Meirs. "He was all about the farm. He loved the agriculture, the soil, the trees, the foals, the mares. He just loved it all."

Dr. Meirs II was graduated from Rutgers University in New Jersey and then went on to the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school, where he earned a V.M.D. in 1953. He went on to work in a mixed veterinary practice in Freehold, N.J. While there his work included cattle in the morning and small animals at night, and during the afternoon he worked as the state vet at Freehold Raceway.

In 1964, Dr. Meirs II told his boss that he wanted to buy into the practice, and when he was rebuffed he established Walnridge Equine Clinic. Meanwhile, his wife had struck up a friendship with Rachel Dancer while both women were using the services of a local beauty parlor. That led to Dr. Meirs II doing veterinary work for Mrs. Dancer's husband, the legendary Stanley Dancer. In 1969, Dr. Meirs flew to Indianapolis to be on hand when Nevele Pride went for the world record in a time trial. He also traveled with other Dancer Stable stars, among them Cardigan Bay and Super Bowl.

In 1972, the New Jersey Sires Stakes was created. "That was the pivotal point for the farm to really take off," said Dr. Richard Meirs, also a veterinarian and now the proprietor of the Walnridge Equine Clinic. "My father, Charlie Smith, Steve Dey, Ed Mullen and others became involved and the Sires Stakes really gave New Jersey breeding a boost."

The first stallion to stand at Walnridge came courtesy of Dancer. The horse was Peerswick, who was the first 2:00 pacer in New Jersey in the days before the Meadowlands.

"Stanley had the horse and we bought him for \$1,000. That really got our breeding business going," said Dr. Richard Meirs.



*Pictured from left to right are Jody Dancer, Dr. David Meirs II, Stanley Dancer, Kelly Meirs and David Meirs III. The 1994 Stanley Dancer award was presented to the Meirs family, owners of Walnridge Farm.*

Not long after the establishment of the Sires Stakes, Walnridge was breeding 500 mares annually, with about 700 horses during the peak season for the population. The farm became the home to the marquee Standardbreds Niatross, Beach Towel and Direct Scooter as well as several lesser stallions.

"His favorite horse was Direct Scooter," said Dr. Richard Meirs of his father's affection for a specific horse. "My dad's mind was into genetics and he was certain that if we brought an outcross sire to Meadow Skipper-line mares, we would see success."

Dr. Meirs II served on numerous veterinary and agricultural boards over the years and encouraged young veterinarians.

Dr. Meirs II is survived by his wife, Caroline; children David A. Meirs III (Robin), who operates Concord Stud; Dr. Richard S. Meirs (Sherri) and MaryAnn Meirs; 15 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation with family will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Crosswicks Friends Meetinghouse, 15 Front St., Crosswicks, N.J., 08515. A Friends Memorial Meeting for Worship will follow the visitation at the Meetinghouse. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Rutgers University Foundation Equine Science Center, Administrative Services Building II, 57 US Highway 1, New Brunswick, N.J., 08901, Attention Dr. Karyn Malinowski; Standardbred Retirement Foundation, 353 Sweetmans Lane, Millstone Township, N.J., 08535; or SBOA Trotpac, 64 Business Rt. 33, Manalapan, N.J., 07726.

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**David Miller back at Meadowlands Friday**

Two-time defending Dan Patch "Driver of the Year" David Miller makes his first local appearance of the season as racing returns to the Meadowlands on Friday evening with 11 contests scheduled beginning at 7:15 p.m. [more](#)

**56 still eligible to Pepsi NA Cup**

The connections of 56 three-year-old pacers have made the first sustaining payment to remain eligible to the 34th Pepsi North America Cup. The \$1 million Pepsi North America Cup is Canada's richest harness race and will take place on Saturday, June 17, at Mohawk Racetrack. [more](#)

**Ray Fisher Jr. drives 4,000th winner**

"I never thought I'd get my first win or even get a hundred wins let alone four thousand," driver Ray Fisher Jr. said after he posted his 4,000th career victory aboard Autocorect Hanover (\$9.80) in the eighth race at Buffalo Raceway on Wednesday night (March 29). [more](#)

**Record number of Hackett nominees at MVG**

Miami Valley Raceway has received a record of 93 nominations for the 2017 edition of the James K. Hackett Memorial series for Ohio-sired sophomore pacers. A total of 38 fillies are eligible to drop in the box for \$12,500 elimination heats on Friday, April 14. [more](#)

**Robert DeMayo, connected to Saccharum, dies**

Robert DeMayo, 76, whose wife, Frances, co-owned Ohio Hall of Famer Saccharum, died March 23. [more](#)

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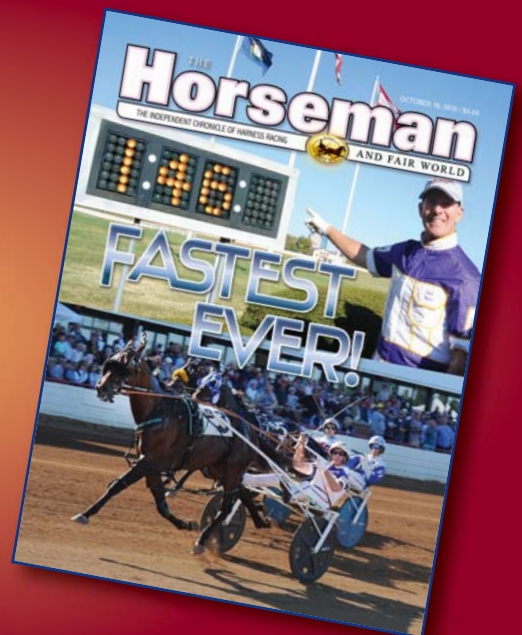
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**RACE LINES**

**Harness Racing Leaders**

Compiled by the USTA—through March 28, 2017 (week difference March 22-28).

**Leading North American-Based Money-Winning Horses**

	Sts.	W	P	S	Earnings
Red Hot Herbie (7tg)	9	4	0	1	\$132,700
Somewhere In L A (6pg)	10	4	2	1	118,250
Caviart Luca (6pg)	9	5	0	1	113,900
Soto (5ph)	10	5	0	1	104,000
Cousin Mary (4pm)	9	7	1	0	97,500
American Virgin (5pg)	10	6	2	1	92,946
Bedroomconfessions (5pm)	6	3	2	0	91,250
Missile J (4pg)	7	6	0	1	83,200
Springbank Sam N (10tg)	8	1	3	1	81,630
Guantanamo Bay (5pg)	10	3	0	2	81,600
Empress Deo (6pm)	10	1	4	0	77,250
Blazing Bobby Sox (6pg)	11	5	1	3	76,107
Awesomeness (4pg)	8	6	2	0	74,854
Aggressive (6tg)	6	3	1	0	73,930
Blood Brother (5pg)	9	1	4	1	73,150

**Leading Money-Winning Drivers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UDR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Jason Bartlett	606	122-110-90	.352	\$2,348,706 (\$264,825)
Jordan Stratton	514	87-74-81	.302	1,785,504 (191,806)
Aaron Merriman	1,167	255-194-154	.355	1,778,147 (172,663)
Matt Kakaley	555	71-83-62	.248	1,621,286 (225,940)
George Brennan	552	74-64-66	.238	1,522,879 (107,285)
Scott Zeron	489	65-62-63	.246	1,345,554 (101,670)
Corey Callahan	754	143-109-94	.312	1,234,023 (104,663)
Yannick Gingras	460	95-76-59	.341	1,149,512 (169,651)
Mark MacDonald	477	49-59-57	.211	1,145,428 (137,010)
Trace Tetrick	618	122-84-69	.310	1,067,924 (116,285)
Daniel Dube	472	43-56-57	.197	1,034,015 (150,815)
Dave Palone	504	125-74-61	.370	979,812 (74,380)
Jim Marohn Jr.	638	128-104-89	.338	928,010 (78,132)
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	670	138-131-105	.367	864,145 (70,644)
Doug McNair	366	78-67-45	.356	859,014 (59,580)

**Leading Money-Winning Trainers**

	Sts.	W-P-S	UTR	Earnings (wk. diff)
Ron Burke	666	150-98-87	.351	\$1,933,925 (\$212,118)
Rene Allard	397	91-64-49	.360	1,131,215 (171,155)
Richard Banca	267	48-51-38	.333	1,062,895 (130,495)
Andrew Harris	222	41-36-24	.311	716,215 (123,584)
Scott Di Domenico	218	42-35-29	.326	661,969 (78,920)
Richard Moreau	331	54-48-46	.290	596,711 (41,387)
Rob Harmon	165	40-20-17	.344	496,554 (15,425)
Carmen Auciello	286	39-39-31	.248	482,227 (18,925)
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	213	28-28-28	.248	457,975 (72,188)
Dylan Davis	187	50-36-27	.422	442,122 (21,350)
Matias Ruiz	151	21-19-17	.247	405,801 (39,460)
Jeff Bamond Jr.	147	16-20-22	.234	384,218 (38,145)
Mark Ford	225	21-25-33	.204	356,954 (39,040)
Nick Surick	285	85-53-42	.451	356,517 (26,173)
Tyler George	143	38-27-14	.403	344,734 (34,150)

**Leading Breeders**

Breeder	Starters	Winners	Wins	Earnings
Hanover Shoe Farms Inc.	559	226	388	\$3,602,056
Winbak Farm	516	193	333	2,687,001
Brittany Farms	139	66	116	1,063,203
Seelster Farms Inc.	109	63	123	1,033,466
Perretti Farms	127	56	89	865,966
Bulletproof Enterprises	95	39	73	703,523
Blue Chip Bloodstock Inc.	90	34	74	671,732
Diamond Creek Farm LLC	70	28	52	621,697
White Birch Farm	90	31	55	604,753
Robert McIntosh Stables Inc.	82	41	71	601,317
Kentuckiana Farms Gen Par	93	31	63	568,445
Steve Stewart	78	38	60	536,479
Robert J. Key	72	36	56	534,819
CSX Stables	41	26	50	448,614
Frederick Hertrich III	94	35	51	445,484

**Leaders Of The Week**

Ranked by wins for March 22-28 from results at major North American pari-mutuel tracks.

**Drivers**

	Starts	W-P-S
Aaron Merriman	92	23-22-10
Trace Tetrick	62	16-10-4
Jim Marohn Jr.	68	13-9-9
Bruce Aldrich Jr.	57	12-8-12
Josh Sutton	49	12-4-3
Ronnie Wrenn Jr.	55	12-8-13
Corey Callahan	65	11-10-11
Jason Bartlett	51	11-10-5
Mike Simons	26	11-6-2
Jim DeVaux	64	10-8-11
Louis Roy	41	10-6-10
Mark Beckwith	37	10-8-5
Chris Page	45	9-2-8
Jim Morrill Jr.	51	9-6-4
Jim Pantaleano	44	9-7-5
Larry Stalbaum	32	9-7-4
Matt Kakaley	58	9-12-9
Tim Tetrick	47	9-6-10

**Trainers**

	Wins
Ron Burke	15
Rene Allard	14
Andrew Harris	7
Melissa Beckwith	7
Dolores Basilone	6
Vincent Fusco Jr.	6
Gilbert Garcia-Herrera	5
Heidi Rohr	5
Kimberly Asher	5
Richard Moreau	5
Scott Di Domenico	5
Andrew Sardella	4
Doug Hinklin	4
Kyle Spagnola	4
Liberio Pacheco	4
Mark Ford	4
Nick Surick	4
Phil Belanger	4
Richard Banca	4
Robert Lounsbury	4
Sam Schillaci	4

# 2017 APRIL



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
26	27 DSBF 3CT (DD) Petticoat F&M Pace final (YR)	28 DSBF 3FP (DD) Sagamore H&G Pace final (YR)	29 DSBF 3FT (DD)	30 DSBF 3CP (DD)	31 Blue Chip Matchmaker F&M Pace (YR)	1 April Fool's Day Levy Mem. OHP (YR) Hoosier Park opens
2 Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD) Harrah's Philadelphia opens	3 DSBF 3CT (DD) Medusa 3FP (Mea)	4 DSBF 3FP (DD) SOA Bonus Open Trot (YR) Tamarind 3CT (Mea) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD)	5 DSBF 3FT (DD) Princess Pablano 3FT (Mea)	6 DSBF 3CP (DD)	7 Blue Chip Matchmaker F&M Pace (YR)	8 Levy Memorial OHP (YR) Unlocked 3CP (Mea)
9 Palm Sunday Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD)	10 DSBF 3CT final (DD) Medusa 3FP (Mea)	11 Passover DSBF 3FP final (DD) Mya Tri F&M Trot (HoP) SOA Bonus Open Trot (YR) Tamarind 3CT (Mea) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD)	12 Cardinal H&G Trot (HoP) Princess Pablano 3FT (Mea) Thunder Ridge opens	13 DSBF 3CP final (DD) Landess H&G Pace (HoP)	14 Good Friday Blue Chip Matchmaker F&M Pace (YR) Hackett Mem. 3FP elims (MVR)	15 Hackett Mem. 3CP elims (MVR) Levy Memorial OHP (YR) Miss Windfall F&M Pace (HoP) Unlocked 3CP (Mea)
16 Easter	17 Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD)	18 Mya Tri F&M Trot (HoP) SOA Bonus Open Trot (YR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD)	19 <b>Horseman</b> Cardinal H&G Trot (HoP)	20 DSBF 3FT final (DD) Landess H&G Pace (HoP)	21 Earth Day Hackett Mem. 3FP final (MVR) Vernon Downs opens	22 Blue Chip Matchmaker final (YR) Hackett Mem. 3CP final (MVR) Levy Memorial final (YR) Medusa 3FP final (Mea) Miss Windfall F&M Pace (HoP) Princess Pablano 3FT final (Mea) Tamarind 3CT final (Mea) Unlocked 3CP final (Mea)
23	24 Weiss F&M Pace (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace (PcD) Harrington Raceway opens	25 Mya Tri F&M Trot final (HoP) SOA Bonus Open Trot final (YR) Weiss F&M Trot (PcD) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD)	26 Cardinal H&G Trot final (HoP)	27 Landess H&G Pace final (HoP)	28	29 Dexter Cup 3CT elims (Fld) Miss Windfall F&M Pace final (HoP)
30	1 OHSS 3FP (MVR) OHSS 3FT (MVR) Weiss F&M Pace final (PcD) Weiss H&G Pace final (PcD)	2 Jackpot Next Door F&M Pace (YR) Jackpot Next Door H&G Pace (YR) Msnaughtbynature F&M Trot (HoP) OHSS 3CP (MVR) OHSS 3CT (MVR) Weiss F&M trot final (PcD) Weiss H&G Trot (PcD)	3 Expression H&G Trot (HoP)	4	5 Buckeye Stallion 3FP (MVR) Buckeye Stallion 3FT (MVR) Hal Dale H&G Pace (HoP)	6 Buckeye Stallion 3CP (MVR) Buckeye Stallion 3CT (MVR) Cutler Memorial OHT (M) Dexter Cup 3CT final (Fld) Go On BB F&M Pace (HoP) Graduate 4YO Pace (M) Lady Suffolk 3FT (Fld) PASS/PA Stallion 3CP (Mea) Van Rose Mem. OHP (PcD) Hollywood Slots & Raceway opens Tioga Downs opens

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